

**CRASSIMARGINATELLA CORNICULATA SP. NOV.**

(Fig. 3C)

*Material*

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.187, Poanangisu, Efate, Vanuatu.

Paratypes: NHM 1998.8.4.188,189, same locality as holotype.

*Description*

Colony encrusting, forming unilaminar sheets. Autozooids irregularly oval, separated by distinct deep grooves, in quincuncial arrangement. Gymnocyist distinct, smooth, particularly prominent proximally, narrowing laterally; cryptocyst narrow, granular, with beaded opesia border. Opesia oval, covering most of the frontal area. Single pair of distal gymnocyistal protuberances (not articulated spines) present, short (protruding above the gymnocyist only slightly), laterally flattened, sometimes almost bifurcate. Avicularia not observed. Ovicells endozooidal, vestigial, distal edge of ovicellate zooids only slightly raised. A single distal and two lateral mural septula.

*Measurements*

Holotype: means and standard deviations, mm ( $n = 25$ ).

Autozooid length  $0.58 \pm 0.04$ ; width  $0.38 \pm 0.03$ .

*Etymology*

From *corniculatus*, L.—horned. Named after the appearance of the distal gymnocyistal protuberances.

*Remarks*

*Crassimarginatella corniculata* is very similar to *Crassimarginatella similis* and *C. falcata* described by Cook (1968) from West Africa. However, *C. corniculata* differs from these species in length of gymnocyistal protuberances and extent of gymnocyist, and number of protuberances and extent of gymnocyist, respectively. *Crassimarginatella corniculata* is also similar to *C. tuberosa* Cook, 1968 from West Africa and *C. spatulifera* Harmer, 1926 from Indonesia: neither of the latter species bears marginal spines, which are also lacking in *C. corniculata*, and both bear gymnocyistal protuberances similar to those of *C. corniculata*, but they are far more sporadic in these species than in *C. corniculata* in which generally all autozooids bear two. However, *C. tuberosa* and *C. spatulifera* possess autozooid-sized vicarious avicularia, spatulate in *C. tuberosa* and subquadrate with a serrated rostrum in *C. spatulifera*; none of the specimens of *C. corniculata* here described bears vicarious avicularia. Finally, the distal calcification, indicating the presence of endozooidal ovicells, is different in all three species.

There is evidence of zooidal regeneration in the holotype and in a colony from Port Vila Harbour.

*Distribution*

*Crassimarginatella corniculata* was found in cryptic habitats on small pieces of coral rubble at Poanangisu, Erakor Island, and Port Vila Harbour, Efate.

